

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having comprised of a sodium ion count ~~of~~ less than 45 ppm comprising ~~the~~ steps of:
 - a. providing a first layer comprising staple length synthetic polymeric fibers;
 - b. providing a second layer comprising natural fiber, wherein said natural fibers are selected from the group consisting of wood pulp, cotton, rayon, and combinations thereof;
 - c. juxtaposing the second layer upon the first layer; and
 - d. applying a hydraulic energy to said juxtaposed layers through a plurality of hydraulic manifolds to form a nonwoven fabric;
 - e. applying an acid wash to said nonwoven fabric;
 - f. rinsing said nonwoven fabric; and
 - g. drying said nonwoven fabric.
2. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having comprised of a sodium ion count ~~of~~ less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of thermoset and thermoplastic fibers.
3. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having comprised of a sodium ion count ~~of~~ less than 45 ppm as in claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, and combinations thereof.
- 4 (canceled)
- 5 (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having comprised of a sodium ion particle count ~~of~~ less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said acid wash comprises ~~is comprised of~~ acetic acid and de-ionized water.

6. (currently amended) A wipe having ~~comprised of~~ a sodium ion particle count of less than 45 ppm wherein said wipe is comprised of hydroentangled synthetic fiber and wood pulp and subsequently exposed to an acetic acid and de-ionized water wash, said wipe being suitable for household, medical, industrial, and electronic applications.
7. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having ~~comprised of~~ a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm comprising the steps of:
- a. providing a first layer comprising staple length synthetic polymeric fibers;
 - b. providing a second layer comprising natural cellulosic fiber;
 - c. juxtaposing the second layer upon the first layer; and
 - d. applying a hydraulic energy to said juxtaposed layers through a plurality of hydraulic manifolds to form a nonwoven fabric;
 - e. applying an acid wash to said nonwoven fabric, wherein said acid wash comprises ~~is comprised of~~ acetic acid and de-ionized water;
 - f. rinsing said nonwoven fabric; and
 - g. drying said nonwoven fabric.
8. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having ~~comprised of~~ a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said polymeric fibers are selected from the group consisting of thermoset and thermoplastic fibers.
9. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having ~~comprised of~~ a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm as in claim 8, wherein said thermoplastic fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, and combinations thereof.
10. (currently amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having ~~comprised of~~ a sodium ion count of less than 25 ppm as in claim 7, wherein said natural cellulosic fibers are selected from the group consisting of wood pulp, cotton, rayon, and combinations thereof.

11. (currently amended) A wipe ~~having comprised~~ of a sodium ion particle count of less than 25 ppm wherein said wipe ~~comprises~~ is comprised of hydroentangled synthetic fiber and wood pulp and ~~is~~ subsequently exposed to an acetic acid and de-ionized water wash, said wipe being suitable for household, medical, industrial, and electronic applications.
12. (new) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, wherein said step of applying an acid wash is a single wash step and said rinsing step is a single rinse step
13. (new) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having a sodium ion count less than 45 ppm as in claim 1, said nonwoven fabric obtained in step g. is softer than nonwoven fabrics made using only steps a.-d. and g.